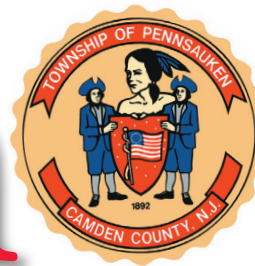


# All Around Pennsauken



February 15  
See page 22 for  
municipal service changes.

VOL. 26, NO. 2

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

February 2021

## Phase 1B Vaccine Site To Open In Pennsauken



Pennsauken's municipal government has arranged to have a site in town to help those eligible during Phase 1B receive a vaccination without scheduling an appointment online.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Many Pennsauken residents – particularly seniors – have expressed concern about their ability to schedule an appointment to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, as they can't go online to do so. Pennsauken Township Committee and the town's municipal staff have arranged to have vaccinations right here in Pennsauken to serve those without access to computers or the internet.

"Making sure that our senior population and those most susceptible to the virus receive their vaccine – regardless of their access to technology – is of major concern to not only myself, but the entire Township Committee," said Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista. "That's why as a team, we have been working day and night with our municipal administration to come up with a solution."

*continued on page 21*

## Township Committee Holds 2021 Reorganization Meeting

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

While the reorganization meeting of Township Committee is required each year within the first week of January, 2021's annual rite of transition for the local governing body looked vastly different than those of the past. On Jan. 5 at the Pennsauken Country Club, packed rows of tables filled with Township staff, local dignitaries, and members of the public were replaced with socially distant attendees, limited in capacity by state COVID-19 guidelines. The majority of participants logged into the meeting via Zoom conferencing software, to view the swearing in of new Committee members, the mayor and deputy mayor for 2021, and the approval of appointments to the Township's professional positions.

### Outgoing Mayor Reflects On 2020

Township Committeeman Tim Killion, who served as Pennsauken's mayor for 2020

## Township, Library Receive Over \$9 Million For New Facilities

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

On December 1, 2020, Pennsauken Township and the Pennsauken Free Public Library Board of Trustees were awarded over \$9 million through the New Jersey Library Construction Bond Act, which will help facilitate the building of a new library and municipal complex.

The summary of Pennsauken's grant application stated that the Township and the Pennsauken Free Public Library Board planned to build "a dynamic new public library and community center for the Township of Pennsauken's 35,885 residents."



Marco DiBattista, surrounded by his family, is sworn in by Bill Orth to serve as Pennsauken's mayor for 2021 during last month's Township Committee Reorganization Meeting.

and was sworn in during last month's reorganization meeting to begin a three-year term, reflected on a year of unheard-of challenges brought on by the pandemic.

"I'd like to thank our current and past

Township Committee members, for their support and trust during this unprecedented year that we all endured with the coronavirus. I'd also like to thank our

*continued on page 23*

idents." In addition, the "destination library" will offer contemporary programs, services and state-of-the-art technology as expected and needed by residents.

"This grant is a very big deal and will enable us to create a true learning center for all members of our community," said Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista. "A lot had to be accomplished in a short amount of time to be considered for this competitive process. I want to thank Township Committeeman Tim Killion, the Pennsauken Free Public Library Board of Trustees, and our municipal staff,

who did so much to make this project possible."

To date, conceptual drawings have been developed by consensus after several space reviews and modifications. In addition, the Township engineer has conducted programming surveys with all municipal departments and library staff for future needs and growth.

"We still have plenty of work to do in order to move things forward," explained Mayor DiBattista. "As we continue with developing this project, we'll share all of the exciting details."

# Look! inside

Open Township Positions  
See Page 2

New President At  
Becker's School Supplies  
See Page 8

Tillinghast Retires  
From Sewerage Authority  
See Page 18

Virtual Wellness  
Programs Extended  
See Page 26

# Plus!

**Mayor's Corner** pg. 3  
**Public Works** pg. 6  
**In Schools** pg. 11  
**Waterlines** pg. 20  
**Food Adventures** pg. 25  
**In Books** pg. 29  
**In Sports** pg. 30  
**Classified** pg. 31

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# Pennsauken Township Advertises Several Open Positions

Pennsauken Township is advertising several employment opportunities: a full-time Director of Parks and Recreation; a part-time Recreation Supervisor, Swimming; and part-time EMTs.

## Director Of Parks And Recreation

This position is classified with the New

Jersey Civil Service Commission as Director of Parks and Recreation and will require the successful candidate(s) to make application through the open competitive process at a later date; the position will remain in a provisional classification until permanent appointment is made. Duties will include the planning, organizing and coordination of the municipal parks and recreation program, preparation of an annual budget, promoting public interest in parks and activities for the Township of Pennsauken under the direction of the Township Committee. The applicant should possess strong communication and problem-solving skills and be able to work both independently and within a group.

## Recreation Supervisor, Swimming

This position is classified with the New Jersey Civil Service Commission as Recreation Supervisor, Swimming and will require the successful candidate(s) to make application through the open competitive process at a later date; the position will remain in a provisional classification until permanent appointment

is made. Duties will include planning, developing, and promoting a community recreational program of swimming and water safety activities and supervising and training the recreation leaders involved in the program; and doing other related work.

## Emergency Medical Technicians

These positions are classified with the New Jersey Civil Service Commission as Emergency Medical Technician and will require the successful candidates to make application through the open competitive process at a later date; the position will remain in a provisional classification until permanent appointment is made. Duties will include the operation of and attendant position of an ambulance, providing emergency medical care as outlined in the requisite job title <https://info.csc.state.nj.us/jobspec/01724.htm>. The applicant should possess strong communication and problem-solving skills and be able to work both independently and within a group.

Interested applicants can download the employment application from the

Township of Pennsauken website at <http://www.twp.pennsauken.nj.us/content/online-forms-applications> or may pick-up a copy from the Human Resources Director at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building. Applications shall include a copy of a resume, and valid NJ Driver's License. All applications are due in a sealed envelope and delivered to the attention of Barbara

Corbett, Human Resources Director, Township of Pennsauken, 5605 North Crescent Boulevard, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. The deadline for submitting applications for the Department of Parks and Recreation and Recreation Supervisor, Swimming is Monday, March 8, 2021. The Emergency Medical Technician posting will remain open until all positions are filled.



## Important Numbers

### Pennsauken Township Municipal Building:

(856) 665-1000

Clerk: x122, 123 or 124

Construction: x130, 131, or 132

Code Enforcement: x134, 136, 169 or 171

Economic Development: x108

Housing/Rental: x145

Mayor's Office: x152 or 155

Parks and Recreation: x151

Planning and Zoning: x128

Senior Services: x125

Tax Assessor: x112 or 116

Tax Collector: x118, 119 or 121

### Pennsauken Country Club:

(856) 662-4961

### Pennsauken Free Public Library:

(856) 665-5959

### Pennsauken Public Works: (856) 663-0178

Public Safety/Emergency Dispatch: 9-1-1

Non-Emergency Dispatch: (856) 663-1234

EMS: (856) 665-2323

Fire Administration: (856) 663-1208

Fire Prevention and Inspection Bureau:  
(856) 665-0774

Police Department: (856) 488-0080

Pennsauken Municipal Court:  
(856) 663-1403

Pennsauken Animal Control:  
(856) 663-3058

Camden County Animal Shelter:  
(856) 401-1300

Pennsauken Sanitary Landfill:  
(856) 665-8787

Merchantville-Pennsauken  
Water Commission  
(856) 663-0043

Pennsauken Sewerage Authority:  
(856) 663-5542

South Jersey Sanitation  
(Trash/Recycling Vendor):  
(609) 561-0441

Camden County Board of Social Services:  
(856) 225-8800

Camden County Municipal Utility Authority  
(CCMUA): (856) 541-3700

New Jersey American Water:  
(800) 272-1325



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## MAYOR'S

CORNER



By Marco DiBattista,  
Mayor of  
Pennsauken  
Township

I am honored to serve the great Township of Pennsauken as your mayor for 2021. Like many of you, I've lived here my entire life. I grew up in the Pennbrook section of town and am raising my family in the home I grew up in. This community has given me so much throughout the years. I'm looking forward to giving back as much as I can to the town I love.

This is my third year on Township Committee and my first as mayor. In that time, there's been a lot that's been accomplished. We've added more officers to our police department, because the safety of our residents couldn't be more important. We incorporated our EMS into our fire department as a way to streamline emergency calls for residents in need; consolidated municipal offices for more efficiency; began accepting online payments for property taxes for the convenience and safety of residents; and made an \$870,000 investment using a Green Acres grant to upgrade Delaware Gardens Park on 49th St. We had a ribbon cutting there a few months back to show people what was done. If you get a chance, you should go down

## Much Has Been Done, But There's Much More To Do

there and take a look; it's a great example of our town's commitment to open spaces in our community. And we have continually increased safety protocols for all of our staff and visitors to our facilities during the pandemic. A lot has been done, but there's so much more to do. And I could not be more excited to share with you what we're doing in 2021.

It may be wintertime, but we're already getting ready for warmer weather. In between the snowflakes, our Public Works Department is cleaning up parks throughout town, making sure everything's ready for spring activities. And while a little cold weather doesn't stop our town's Pickleball fans, there's something the Township has put together for springtime that's going to set us apart from any Pickleball courts in the

surrounding area. We're putting the finishing touches on a Pickleball complex on River Rd. that will offer multiple courts, bathrooms, a parking lot and lights. When the weather gets warmer, we'll be cutting the ribbon on this brand-new facility.

We're also moving forward with another really big project. One that's really going to move the needle for our town. Pennsauken received a \$9 million grant from the state, the second largest amount New Jersey gave out last year. It's enabling us to do a reimagining of our library and administrative offices at a brand-new spot. You can find out more in this issue.

The challenges we all faced in 2020 are still with us this year. But your Township Committee is ready to tackle them head

on. We've got some brand-new faces, two new members with a great perspective and a team approach: Vince Martinez and Nikki Roberts. We also have a first time Deputy Mayor, Jessica Rafeh. Jessica and I have served together for the past two years and she continues to do a great job. We also swore in Tim Killion at reorganization for the start of his three-year term. Tim served as our mayor last year and was excellent. Everyone on Committee brings a lot of great, fresh in-

sight into how we can grow our town. Our goal for 2021 is to build on past momentum, even in the midst of the pandemic, to make Pennsauken a great place to work and live, not just for today, but for years to come.

As your mayor, I pledge to work hard every day and put what's best for our town first. I'm excited to be a part of this team. I'm grateful for your support. And I wish you health and safety for you and your family.

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<b>BBQ Chicken</b> Grilled chicken strips, melted mozzarella cheese, zesty barbecue sauce and arugula	<b>Hawaiian</b> Grilled ham and mozzarella cheese topped off with pineapple and a drizzle of honey
<b>Traditional</b> Homemade pizza sauce, melted mozzarella cheese, pepperoni or Italian sausage, or a combination of both topped with grated romano cheese	<b>Breakfast</b> Fresh scrambled eggs, shredded hashbrowns, melted cheese and your choice of bacon, sausage, bell peppers or porkroll
<b>Homemade Meatball</b> Atop our homemade gravy with melted provolone cheese and grated romano cheese	<b>Caesar Salad</b> Romaine lettuce, cherry tomato, grated romano cheese and caesar dressing, on top of provolone cheese. (Grilled chicken additional charge)
<b>Cheesesteak</b> Fresh grilled steak, melted american cheese, with option of adding caramelized onion and hot cherry peppers	<b>Margherita</b> Homemade pizza sauce, fresh mozzarella cheese and basil with house grated romano cheese blend

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## WAGSWORLD Can You Still Wait To Take Down Christmas Lights? Asking For A Friend

By Bob Wagner,  
AAP Columnist

I was contemplating taking down the holiday lights today. As I looked at the layout, I was taken back to 1976, the big bicentennial celebration year. I had done a bang-up job that Christmas, using a few strings of lights given to me by my dad. They were the heavy wire, screw in big bulb lights, and they had been on the house I grew up in, now to light up my children's holidays.

As January passed by, and Valentine's Day rolled around, my dad started to drop hints about taking down and properly wrapping and storing the family heirloom light strings. The bride, still

practically a newlywed, was less worried about how she would be judged by the neighbors, having a husband who wouldn't take down those lights. But, as even keeled as she was, when Easter rolled around, she started to side with my dad.

Both my dad and the bride had a lot of rules; and my stubbornness had them somewhat baffled; but they knew, even way back then, that nagging would only have me dig in my heels.

When school let out, and the pool opened, even the children began to comment to their dear old dad, that the kids in the neighborhood wondered how I could leave those lights up so long.

I laughed off the nags, the slights, and

even the direct slights from family, friends, and neighbors. Because I had a plan.

Through all the year's pomp, parades, news articles, and ceremonies, I kept my plans to myself. Then, on the third day of July, I sprang into action.

Up on Westfield Ave. I went, to Joe Marrazo's 5 & 10. After a quick discussion with Mr. Marrazo, I was allowed into the storeroom. I found the boxes of Christmas light bulbs, and rummaged through, picking out every red, white and blue bulb Joe had. On the way out, I grabbed some tinsel, and a few extra

small flags.

At home, I took out all the bulbs, spacing my new red, white, and blue bulbs around my house front, and over the door. I hung tinsel from the window box, and happily awaited midnight. At the appointed hour, I flipped the switch, and welcomed the Fourth of July 1976, into the world.

A few neighbors came out and smiled. We were all a lot younger then and could stay up past 10 p.m. The bride, while not 100 percent over the long months of abuse, smiled also. She knew,

even then, it would never be boring. My dad, the next day, just shook his head. He admired the display, but had his doubts about my methods. He thought I did it as a cover up for months of being too lazy to take the lights down; and too stubborn to be forced into doing it.

He was a really, sharp guy.

I might have left my lights up this year, due to COVID-19. But the bride has had way too many years to fall for that. Marrazo's is gone; and in today's world, I don't think anyone would even notice.

## Bethel-Hosanna AME Church Holds Essay Contest

In celebration of Black History Month, Bethel-Hosanna AME Church in Pennsauken is hosting an essay contest that is open to the public.

The theme for the essay is "A Dream Church." In 200 words, describe what you think "A Dream Church" would be.

There are three categories for the contest:

- Grades 6 – 8
- Grades 9 – 12
- Adults age 19 and over

One winner from each category will be selected to receive a cash prize of \$100.

The deadline to receive submissions is Friday, Feb. 12. Participants are asked to include their name, contact information, and essay category. Entries may be emailed to [info@bethelhosanna.org](mailto:info@bethelhosanna.org); mailed to the church at 8216 Park Ave., Pennsauken, N.J. 08109; or dropped off

at the same location. Winners will be announced, and prizes given on Sunday, Feb. 27.

For more information, contact Diane at (609) 458-8969.

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**PENNSAUKEN FEBRUARY PUBLIC MEETINGS**

February's public meetings are being held remotely via Zoom. Details on how the public can participate can be found on [twp.pennsauken.nj.us](http://twp.pennsauken.nj.us).

Township Committee  
Feb. 4 and 18, 6:00 p.m.

Zoning Board of Adjustment  
Feb. 3 and 17, 7:00 p.m.

Planning Board  
Feb. 2 and 23, 6:30 p.m.

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## New Pennsauken Officers Graduate Police Academy



Last month, seven new officers for Pennsauken graduated from the Camden County Police Academy.

## Frazier Retires From Police Department



The Pennsauken Police Department would like to send a very warm and heartfelt congratulations to Gloria Frazier on her retirement. Gloria has been a staple at the department and has worked for over 40 years as the secretary to the Police Chief. Thank you for your dedication to the PPD and we wish you the best!

On Jan. 14, Pennsauken Police Chief Nettleton attended the virtual graduation of the 77th Camden County Police Academy. Seven new officers graduated from The Pennsauken Township Police Department: Officer Richard Saenz, Officer Joseph Hahn, Officer Alaze Figueroa, Officer Tyler Carducci, Officer Makiyn Turner, Of-

ficer Zachery Pliantnos, and Officer Diego Viera.

Two of the Township's new officers distinguished themselves in this academy class. Officer Richard Saenz was named class leader by academy staff over 87 other recruits. Officer Tyler Carducci was given the Captain Thomas J. McDonnell Award, presented to the

recruit that has demonstrated the highest overall achievement and core values that exemplify the standard goals of law enforcement.

The Township is proud of all of our new officers and looks forward to seeing them excel over the next 30 years. Congratulations!



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## Pennsauken PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,  
Department of Public Works

Although the coronavirus pandemic has given us plenty of reason to speed up time already, we're in that annual part of winter that I cannot wait to be over. The days get a little longer with a delayed sunset each day, but it feels like forever until spring will arrive. I hope you all stay warm and stay safe until both winter and pandemic are through.

### Recycling Contamination

According to the minimal rejection notices my office has received due to contamination in our recycling stream, it appears that our collective efforts have been successful in lowering our numbers. There is still room for improvement, as

## Winter Operations Continue At Public Works

we continue to eradicate our number one contaminant: plastic bags. We continue to ask that you do not bag your recyclables, as these are processed as trash once arriving at the recycling plant. By keeping these items clean and loose, Pennsauken's recycling costs can be minimized. Public Works staff will continue to red tag recycling buckets in 2021 to continue our house-by-house educational outreach, which will further reduce our numbers in the areas that still need improvement.

### Snow Plowing

I would like to offer a couple suggestions for the remaining weeks of winter that can make life easier during our snow plowing operations.

By placing vehicles in your driveway

(where possible) before snowfall begins, our crews can open each street "curb to curb," as they are instructed to. This avoids stretches of street not being plowed as our dump trucks cannot maneuver between two parked vehicles.

If you choose to shovel your driveway apron before we plow your street; place the snow on the left side of your driveway. This would reduce the amount of snow that a plow could grab from the street and push back into your driveway apron.

When shoveling, place snow on your front lawn and not in the street. There is much more area for snow disposal on the front lawn than the grass curb strip area where the street snow will likely end up.

Heavy, wet snow is dangerous! Only shovel a small amount at a time to prevent back injuries. Our drivers take the same approach when plowing our streets.

deliver these items to our complex.

### Dealing With Potholes

This is the heart of pothole season and we rely heavily on the residents and general public for information on pothole locations, as well as excessive litter in our parks or tires dumped on out-of-the-way streets. We welcome a phone call or email to our office and will respond after prioritizing safety issues first. Remember, potholes found on county roads or state highways can be reported online to Camden County or the New Jersey State Department of Transportation, respectively.

## The Great-Great Grandfather Of All Around Pennsauken?

Information Provided By  
The Pennsauken Historical Society

On January 8, 1916, it was reported that the previous evening's meeting of the Pensauken Improvement Association included the distribution of free copies of issue #1 of a new, weekly newspaper called "The Pensauken Township News."


The newspaper was published by Ernest S. Lloyd, long involved in Township affairs, having served as Justice of the Peace and on Township Committee. Three years later, he was elected mayor or chairman of Township Committee.

Wonder if any issues of this newspaper survive 105 years later?

Note: It's not a typo: the spelling of Pennsauken in early days often only had two "n's." It wasn't until some time in the 1930s that it was predominantly spelled with three.



Ernest S. Lloyd, publisher of the "Pensauken Township News." Photo courtesy of the Pennsauken Historical Society.



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### Hazardous Waste Collection Events

As of this writing, Camden County has not set the household hazardous waste collection or electronics recycling events. For electronics, including tube TVs, you can drop them off at Magnum Computer Recycling, here in Pennsauken. They are located at 5070 Central Hwy., off of Browning Rd. by Cooper River. You cannot place household hazardous waste and electronics at the curb for collection. Additionally, you cannot



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## Becker's School Supplies Announces New President

Becker's School Supplies announced that Louis K. Becker had been appointed president and chief executive officer. He assumed day to day leadership of the 93-year-old educational supply company on Jan. 1. He previously held the position of vice president of distribution. George



Becker

J. Becker retired as president and CEO after more than 40 years with the company.

Becker, 44, has been with Becker's School Supplies since 1997, first as a sales representative and then leading the distribution center. Becker streamlined warehouse operations to improve and grow the fulfillment center's capabilities. He was integral in the company's transition from

a brick and mortar-based business to full-service ecommerce operation, overseeing the implementation of the company's first warehouse management system.

"I am eager to continue Becker's growth as a leader in early childhood classroom supplies by developing long-term expansion strategies and creating new channels for revenue," said Becker. "It is also my goal to continue the fam-

ily business culture, strengthen existing relationships, and help foster new relationships."

Becker's School Supplies is a true family-run business. Louis represents the third generation of Beckers who have taken the helm as president. The prior president, George, is Louis' first cousin. Charles J. Becker, Jr., the son of the company's founder and George's father, was president before that.

For 93 years, Becker's School Supplies has been a trusted supplier of quality

educational supplies, instructional materials, furnishings and equipment for schools, educators, and parents. Since 1928, Becker has provided exceptional service and products to schools and early childhood centers with satisfaction guaranteed. As a family-owned business, Becker's core values include a commitment to offering the highest quality products, providing unmatched customer service, and being passionate about early childhood education. For more information, visit ShopBecker.com or call (800) 523-1490.

## Preston And Steve Show's Love You/Help You Line Promotes Small Businesses



Image courtesy of WWMR and the Beasley Media Group, LLC.

The Preston and Steve Show on 93.3 WWMR has created a way for small

business owners to promote their companies – free of charge – to listeners.

Small businesses can call the Love You/Help You Line at (484) 434-1333 and leave a short, 20-30 second message. The messages will be randomly selected to play on air during the Preston and Steve Show around 8:00 a.m.

Callers to the Love You/Help You Line are asked to keep the following tips in mind:

- Be energetic
- Be clear
- Be concise
- Speak from the heart

These messages should contain the caller's name, the name and location of their business, website or social media, and what makes the business so special.

Visit <https://wwmr.com/2021/01/14/love-you-help-you-line> for more information.

## Business Construction Company Moves To Pennsauken



Snacky Ventures, LLC is moving to 9275 Commerce Hwy. in Pennsauken. The sale was facilitated by Wolf Commercial Real Estate.

Snacky Ventures, LLC, a business construction company, is moving to 9275 Commerce Hwy. in Pennsauken.

Facilitated by Wolf Commercial Real Estate (WCRE), the property contains an approximately 9,816 square foot flex industrial building situated on approximately 1 acre within the Pennsauken Industrial Park. The location provides direct access to Routes 73, 130 and 90

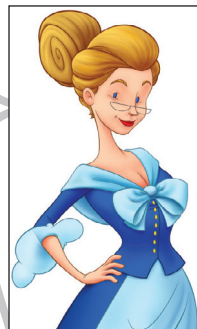
and is minutes from Betsy Ross and Tacony Palmyra Bridges.

The successful sale of this property adds to WCRE's growing number of successful transactions in the Pennsauken business district corridor in the Southern New Jersey region. Jason Wolf, managing principal at WCRE, represented the seller in this transaction.

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## SENIORCORNER Seniors: Get Your Flu Shot – It's Important

(Family Features) Getting vaccinated for the flu is more important than ever. Not only will a flu shot help keep you and your family healthy, it can help reduce the strain on the healthcare system and keep hospital beds and other medical resources available for people with coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

This is no ordinary flu season; it's a flu season amid a pandemic. With two dangerous viruses going around at once, it's time for people to protect their communities by getting the vaccine already available: the flu vaccine.

And people with Medicare are at greater risk for serious complications from flu. A flu shot is an important preventive tool for individuals with asthma, diabetes, and heart and lung disease – chronic conditions that can increase the risk for serious flu-related health complications or even death. It's the best protection from getting and spreading this flu virus, and it's covered by Medicare at no cost. Medicare Part B covers one flu shot per flu season per beneficiary. You pay nothing for a flu shot if your doctor or other qualified healthcare provider accepts Medicare payment for giving

the shot.

A flu shot won't protect you against COVID-19, but it has many other important benefits. Flu vaccines have been shown to reduce the risk of flu illness, hospitalization, and death.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there's no evidence that a flu vaccination increases your risk of getting sick from a coronavirus, like the one that causes COVID-19.

Those at high risk for flu complications include young children, pregnant women, people 65 years and older, and people with certain chronic health conditions. Anyone who is six months old or older should get a yearly flu vaccine.

The CDC recommends getting vaccinated in September or October, but a flu shot anytime during the flu season can help protect you.

Flu season in North America rarely begins before early October and usually lasts from December to March. In the past two years, the peak activity has occurred around mid-to-late February. Your body needs two weeks after a shot to develop a protective response to the



Getting your flu shot is particularly important during the coronavirus outbreak. Photo credit: Getty Images.

influenza virus, so your best bet is to get vaccinated before the flu rate begins to climb.

Workplaces and other settings that usually provide flu shots may not do so this season because of the challenges of maintaining social distancing. For more information on where you can get a flu vaccine, visit [www.vaccinefinder.org](http://www.vaccinefinder.org).

When going to get a flu shot, please practice everyday preventive actions and follow the CDC's recommendations for running essential errands. Ask your doc-

tor, pharmacist, or health department if they are following CDC's vaccination pandemic guidance. Any vaccination location following CDC's guidance should be a safe place for you to get a flu vaccine.

### What's the difference between flu and COVID-19?

Influenza (flu) and COVID-19 are both contagious respiratory illnesses, but they're caused by different viruses. COVID-19 is caused by infection with a new coronavirus (called SARS-CoV2) and flu is caused by infection with influenza viruses. Because some symptoms of flu and COVID-19 are similar, it may be hard to tell the difference between them based on symptoms alone, and testing may be needed to help confirm a diagnosis.

It is possible to have flu and COVID-19 at the same time. Health experts are still studying how common this can be.

So please protect yourself, your family, and your community by getting a flu shot. Visit the doctor, pharmacy, or other local providers to get a flu shot today.

Information provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.



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# inSchool

## Remembering “Mr. Ron”

We were extremely saddened to hear of the passing of Ron Bittle, a former custodian who had served our school family for 36 years. For the majority of his time with us, “Mr. Ron,” seen here second to the right, could be found hard at work at Baldwin; he also helped Santa stop by to

visit during the holidays. He was also well known for his love of Philadelphia sports and sports memorabilia. The entire Pennsauken School District offers the Bittle family, Ron’s former colleagues, and the school children who knew and loved him, our heartfelt condolences.



Ron Bittle, a former custodian who served the Pennsauken School District for 36 years, passed away last month.

## Delair Cares: Helping Deserving Families

Delair Elementary, through its “Delair Cares” Committee, spread some holiday cheer to deserving families just before winter break! The entire Team Delair staff gave to this effort and we look forward to more ways to give back to our local community!

If you would like to partner with Delair Cares, please contact Principal Lawrence. We recently partnered with Outspoke Youth, LLC, who were extremely generous to a specific family. It was amazing! What a blessing!

Members of the Delair Cares Committee, Nurse Adamo, Guidance Counselor Nixon and Principal Lawrence, helped to spread some holiday cheer to deserving families.



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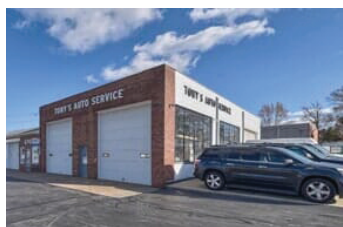
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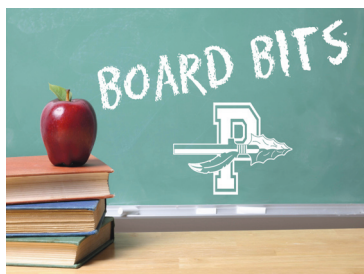
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## PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of “All Around Pennsauken” please contact:

Nicole Roberts, Editor [nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net](mailto:nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net)





After last month's reorganization meeting of the Pennsauken Board of Education, we caught up with Board President Nick Perry and asked some questions about what the new year brings for the elected body.

**Q:** What are the major goals of the Board of Education for 2021?

**A:** Our first goal is to continue the progress we've made in the programs we have for our school children. In everything we do, we ask a very important question: How do we direct our programs to give our kids – whether it's a child in kindergarten or a high school senior – the best opportunities to succeed?

Whether it's building upon the CTE programs, giving students the opportunity to earn college credits, or making sure students are ready for the increased workloads in the high school, we have to make sure our superintendent has the tools to accomplish these goals.

**Q:** How has the coronavirus impacted the board's ability to serve and support the District?

**A:** We've been able to work virtually, either through Zoom or a phone call.

## A Q&A With Board President Nick Perry

We've also held socially distant meetings to keep moving things forward. The Board has done everything possible, thanks to guidance from Dr. Tarchichi, to help facilitate what needed to be done so that staff and students stay safe from the virus. During the pandemic, all of our staff and school families have really shown incredible flexibility and fortitude.

**Q:** Aside from the pandemic, what's the biggest challenge the Board faces in 2021?

**A:** The District budget has a big question mark this year. We're not sure if we're getting more or less funding. We certainly hope it's more. But aside from the funding issue, the focus of the Board of Education is making sure that we do as much as we can for our staff and school families as cost effectively as possible. What we do today impacts what can be done three or four years down the road. We need to be aware of that.

**Q:** The majority of Board members have been serving together for several years. How does that help move things forward?

**A:** This is an excellent board with great access to our superintendent. It's an honor to serve with each and every one of them. Together, we're looking at the positions of the future, whether that's coding, wind and solar energy, or a variety of other STEAM-focused industries, the Pennsauken Board of Education is building out academic and vocational



Nick Perry, president of the Pennsauken Board of Education.

programs as much as we possibly can. We couldn't do that if we weren't together as a team.

**Q:** Anything you'd like to add?

**A:** On behalf of the entire Board of Education, I want to thank Dr. Tarchichi for his ongoing leadership and guidance during the pandemic, the courage and dedication of our school employees, and the understanding and commitment of students and school families. It's been a challenge, but we're working together to overcome everything that's been thrown at us. I couldn't be more proud of what we've been able to accomplish as a community.

## Learning About Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Mrs. Rosenman's kindergarten students are learning about Martin Luther King, Jr.'s contribution to our nation. The class completed a directed drawing of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. after reading

and discussing the book, "I Am Martin Luther King, Jr." by Brad Meltzer. Mrs. Rosenman's kindergarten class also discussed the importance of equality during this learning activity.



Carson kindergarten students drew pictures of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and discussed the importance of equality.

## Fun-Filled Learning At Franklin

December was a fun-filled educational month for Franklin's first graders. Ms. Soto's and Mrs. Maioriello's classes traveled to the North Pole on The Polar

Express. We discussed the weather and how fast trains travel. We were engineers and built our gingerbread houses. Students also traveled around the world discussing December holidays. We learned about the eight days of Hanukkah, Las Posada, Christmas, Kwanzaa and Three Kings Day. After winter break, Franklin students learned all about New Year's Day and making New Year's resolutions. We all made goals for 2021 and are looking forward to an exciting second part of our school year!

Mrs. Goldstein's class is learning about sound in science. In order to learn about how sounds are made, we took a virtual field trip to the Pennsauken Intermediate School to visit Mr. Kauffman, a music teacher. He taught us about how sound is made using several instruments. Students learned about string instruments, percussion, wind instruments, and our voices; how the head of a drum vibrates to make sound; and how the piano is a mix of different types of instruments. Mr. Kauffman played beautiful music for us! This field trip helped us get excited about sound and about types of instruments we can learn when we get old enough to be in the band. Thanks to Mr. Kauffman we were able to have an exciting and educational field trip, even when we are remote!



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## FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



By Dr. Ronnie Tarchichi,  
MEd<sup>2</sup>, M.S., M.B.S., M.A.<sup>2</sup>,  
Ed.D., Ph.D. Superintendent,  
Pennsauken Public Schools

As we begin a new February in the 2020-21 school year, I would like to first thank the teachers and students for their hard work during the first semester of school. During these difficult times for remote learning and hybrid learning, I want the teachers to know they are the backbone of our district and I am especially grateful for their meticulousness and diligence. Students, as schoolwork gets harder, please remember the words of Philip Stanhope, "Whatever is worth doing at all is worth doing well." I know that each and every one of you can rise to the occasion and meet with success, even during times of remote learning in a pandemic.

### Pennsauken High School

The high school has been running efficiently and proficiently since the first day of school. I would like to thank our principal, Mr. Bonkowski, and our vice principals.

Even during the pandemic, our vocational programs have been the envy of other districts. A special thanks to our teachers for all of their hard work.

In addition, our athletic programs

have run very competently and meticulously, thanks to the hard work of our many talented coaches. You can find the upcoming athletic schedule on the District's website, Pennsauken.net. I strongly encourage our community to support our "Code Red" sports teams!

### Middle School And Intermediate School

The students at our middle and intermediate schools have grown collectively in mathematics, language arts, science, social studies, and related arts. Phifer Middle School principal, Ms. Allen, and Intermediate School principal, Mrs. Harmon, are working together vigorously at our Park Ave. campus to offer students the most competitive education possible. Their collaboration has enabled parents and teachers to work together as stakeholders in each student's education.

I'd also like to thank the faculty and students at the Park Avenue Campus for leading the way when it comes to the hard work they have done for the students during this school year.

### Elementary Schools

Our elementary schools have run very efficiently since the beginning of the semester. Students have grown both socially and academically to date; and just

as importantly, are having fun in our schools. Mrs. Gerry, Mrs. Lawrence, Mrs. Joyce, Mrs. Galloza and Mr. Honeyman have done commendable jobs as building principals. The teachers have shown from the beginning of the year that our students' education comes first, as hybrid and remote learning have shown to be the best in the state.

### Get To Know A Pennsauken Hero

Pennsauken Public Schools has a student that needs to be recognized. A few weekends ago, Andrew Capellan was on his way to McDonald's before work and witnessed an accident. A person was struck by a car crossing the highway and Andrew sprang into action. He assisted the person without hesitation and used his work vest as a tourniquet to stop the bleeding on the person's leg while running to McDonald's to grab more napkins to use to stop the heavy bleeding from the person's cranium. He also used his own beanie hat to stop the bleeding as well. First responders that came to the scene said Andrew helped save the person's life. Andrew is in the 10th grade in our Electrical Construction CTE program at Pennsauken High School. We honor this young man's bravery and are proud he is in our district!

performed over Zoom. Unfortunately, theater and performing arts have been hit HARD by COVID-19, probably more than any other art or profession. So finding a way to be able to continue to perform and entertain is a blessing, no matter how laggy a Zoom call can be.

David: Last question, what were you most excited for regarding the musical?

Athan: I was most excited to see the final product live on show night. The cast spent a lot of time and put a lot of time and put a lot of effort over the past month. So I was excited for them to witness all of their hard work pay off with an exciting live show!

David: Thanks for taking the time to talk about your run of "Once On This Island Jr.!"

Athan: Thank you!

Ms. Guenther, our wonderful musical theater teacher, is planning to host a live streamed student concert over the next couple of months as well as a production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame"! Be sure to look for announcements of these productions very soon!

## Board of Education Holds Reorganization Meeting



Orlando Rivera, Maria James, and Lisa Eckel take the oath of office during the Pennsauken Board of Education's reorganization meeting on Jan. 7.

On Jan. 7, the Pennsauken Township Board of Education held its reorganization meeting at Pennsauken High School.

During the reorganization, Lisa Eckel, Maria James, and Orlando Rivera took the oath of office for new, three-year terms. Board members also nominated and voted to have Nick Perry serve as president and JoAnn Young serve as vice president for 2021.

"I thank my fellow Board members for their trust in me and I thank all of you for your service," said Perry. "One thing I discussed with the superintendent when he first got here was that we had to change the culture in Pennsauken. We're now resolute in making Pennsauken Schools a place where you want to send your children."

Young thanked the Board for the chance to serve and then took the opportunity to recognize Diane Johnson, who had dutifully embraced the role of vice president for several years.

"I also wanted to thank Diane for all the hard work she's done over the past

few years [as vice president], keeping us informed on what's going on, reminding us of different meetings and deadlines, helping to organize our committees and just all of her faithfulness."

"We're blessed to have Diane on our Board and thank her for her hard work and dedication," added Perry.

As part of his remarks, Perry acknowledged the resiliency of Pennsauken's students during the pandemic.

"You see it academically and you can definitely see it in the hallways," said Perry. "Whether it's online or in-person, they want to learn. I really applaud their efforts."

He also reiterated the goal of the Board: to enhance the programs offered to students that will enable them to succeed in the future, whether that's college, the trades, or military service.

"We do have a vision for our schools. We have a vision for the future. That vision is to continue to add programs and grow our system. That's our goal. We want to continue that growth."

## Board Members Celebrate Birthdays



New for this year, the Pennsauken Public Schools are recognizing Board of Education members on their birthdays! Maria James, Scott La Vine, and Diane Johnson celebrated their birthdays in January. Happy Birthday!

## Meeting A Zoomsical Director

By David Mai, From  
The Pennidian Newsletter

During the fall-winter season, Pennsauken Stages planned and produced three junior musicals that were performed over Zoom. These musicals were nicknamed "Zoomsicals." The three musicals were "Once On This Island Jr.," "Hairspray Jr.," and "Madagascar Jr." Using effects unique to a virtual setting, the musicals departed from traditional methods of musical theater and developed their own character. Our own David Mai interviewed director and actor Athan Papaioannou about the process.

David: Hey, I'm David Mai and in preparation for the debut of "Once On This Island Jr.," one of the three musicals that played this December, I have been chosen to interview you. First of all, how are you?

Athan: Pretty good. I am nervous, but also super excited. I think we had adequately prepared ourselves. The casts of each musical worked very hard to make these fun shows come to life in a remote



Athan  
Papaioannou

setting.

David: Nice to hear! By the way, what is your name and how long have you been involved with theater?

Athan: My name is Athan Papaioannou. I am a senior and have been a part of Pennsauken Stages since my sophomore year, participating in the past productions of "Elf Jr.," "Godspell," and "Hunchback of Notre Dame."

David: For this show, what roles did you play?

Athan: I directed "Once On This Island Jr." alongside Tatiana Gonzales, Ilana Perez, and Luis Vicente. In that show, I played the small role of Daniel, a grand homme whom the main character Ti Moune falls in love with and swears to protect. I also starred in another show, "Hairspray Jr.," directed by Jazzenya Gonzalez, Destiny Spiller, Kalayah Horne, and Dyannalee Molina, as the superstar Link Larkin.

David: That sounds like a lot of work! From my understanding, the new musicals are "Zoomsicals." What is that exactly?

Athan: A "Zoomsical" is what we in the theater world are calling a musical

## PEA Hosts Third Annual MLK Day Of Service Event

The Pennsauken Education Association (PEA) hosted its third annual Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service event for the Pennsauken Community. The National MLK Day of Service is intended to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King's vision of a "beloved community."

In order to keep socially distant and safe during this pandemic, we honored Dr. Martin Luther King's mission by asking Pennsauken families to donate toiletry materials to create the bags for Angels in Motion, an organization that assists individuals who are combating ad-



As part of the MLK Day of Service, members of PEA Pride organized a donation of personal care items for Angels in Motion, a non-profit helping those battling addiction in the Philadelphia area.

diction by treating each person as individuals and offering genuine compassion and understanding. The organization provides "blessing bags," which contain food, snacks, clothing, hygiene products and resource information to obtain help when they are ready.

On Jan. 18, families dropped off the materials for the care packages for the creation of blessing bags. Drop off began at 9:00 a.m. and ended at noon, with those who contributed receiving a token of appreciation from Pennsauken Pride. A total of 207 bags were able to be donated to Angels in Motion.

The PEA MLK Day of Service event is one of many PRIDE in Public Education activities to be carried out by the

Pennsauken Education Association this year.

The PEA is an affiliate of the New Jersey Education Association (NJEA) and represents the teachers, nurses, librarians, guidance counselors, child study team members, and student assistance coordinators of the Pennsauken School District.

Pennsauken PRIDE is an ongoing campaign created to share the education successes of the Pennsauken School District with all Pennsauken residents, while building strong community support and involvement in our great public schools.

Visit us on Facebook at Pride in Pennsauken Education Association to learn more about the mission of Pennsauken Education Association!

## A Focus On Both Education And Wellness

By Ly Nguyen, RN,  
Carson School Nurse

COVID-19 impacted each one of us and especially has made changes to school nursing practices. Despite it, the health office has committed to deliver quality health services based on the state guidelines and regulations to ensure the safety and wellness of staff and students throughout the year.

This includes following the current best practices as outlined by evidenced-based sources. For example, not doing universal screening of students and staff when entering the school, but helping parents assess students before sending them to school instead when parents self-report their student's symptoms. Whenever a student is referred to the school nurse because of exhibiting symptoms of coughs, runny nose, headaches, or fever, the student is assessed and safely isolated from other students. Phone calls will be made on which students have to be sent home to quarantine and which can be let back to class. Infection control measures are also in place including physical distancing, ventilation, cleaning, and appropriate PPE use.

Communication plays an important role in providing health services. Because of COVID-19, regular communication with local health departments is a must to ensure compliance with most current school-based guidance, including how to respond to newly identified positive cases. In addition, educating students,

staff, and parents about hygiene basics, such as handwashing, proper mask wearing and keeping students home from school when not feeling well, or even clarifying misinformation and myths on COVID-19, are very important. I found many students need to practice proper handwashing by washing hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. The best way to know they are rubbing their hands long enough is singing one ABC song together while in the Nurse's Office. Encouragement and reminders also help students with mask wearing, because students don't often have their mask covered over their nose. I was pleased to teach students about the importance of wearing masks and the proper way to put a mask on their face. Monthly newsletters are another great tool on delivering information to staff, students, and parents to be on top of topics like hands washing, quarantine after traveling during COVID-19, symptom charts differentiating COVID-19 versus cold/flu versus allergies, staying up to date with recommended immunizations, including the annual influenza flu vaccination, etc. Our monthly newsletter was sent out during October, November, and December.

This year is unique in itself; and we are proactively and actively engaged in our students' wellness and education success in the 2020-2021 school year.

## Fun Winter Events At Delair

Despite being at home on quarantine for two weeks in December, Delair students and staff enjoyed Winter Bingo created by Mrs. Drexel and a sing-along-video produced by Mrs. Lawrence!

Students and staff were able to enjoy these events virtually and according to their own schedules. Screencastify came in handy for the sing-along video; and Mrs. Drexel provided some amazing tech tips on how to play Bingo virtually amongst the students. We look forward to more fun winter activities!



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# Pennsauken Sewerage Authority

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## Tillinghast Retires From Sewerage Authority

After 34 years of serving the Pennsauken community, Thom Tillinghast is retiring from the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority. Tillinghast started at the PSA in December of 1986 as an assistant pretreatment program coordinator, helping to administer a program that prevents hazardous industrial waste contamination. From there, he rose through the ranks, ultimately becoming superintendent of the PSA in 2002.

"I didn't have aspirations to get into the sewer business when I got out of school, but an opportunity presented itself," said Tillinghast, a lifelong resident who still lives in the Browning Manor

section of town. "I can't think of a better place that I've ever worked. It didn't seem like three decades."

Tillinghast reflected on moments from his time at the PSA, from dealing with a major flood in town during the '90s, to rescuing a puppy that was stuck in a storm sewer. But the thing he'll remember the most are the people he's worked with over the years.

"I've been fortunate to work with great people over the years. They're like family. We worked together and socialized together," said Tillinghast.

And the feeling is mutual.

"He was a great superintendent, a

good friend, and just an okay drummer," said Bill Orth, executive director at the PSA. "Kidding aside, he always put the Authority first."

"Thom's been a mentor and a friend," added Pennsauken Mayor Marco DiBattista, who also serves as the PSA's assistant director. "He taught me how to earn the respect of people through the work that you do; to be fair to everyone; and to be knowledgeable about the job. I've been fortunate to have been able to spend time with him."

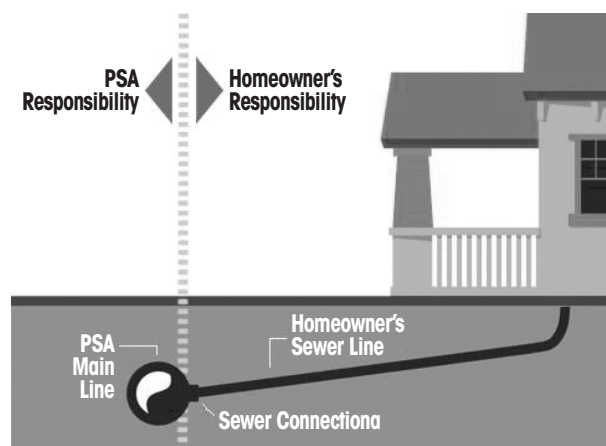
Thom plans on doing some relaxing, then doing more volunteer work around town. He's also sure that he'll block out

time to do more golfing, fishing, and playing the drums.

"I'll miss working at the PSA, but it's time for the younger guys to take over," explained Tillinghast. "They have good people there. Anthony Figueroa is the new superintendent. He's going to do a great job."

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority thanks Thom for his many years of dutiful service and congratulates him on a very well-deserved retirement. You make us "Pennsauken Proud."

**Thom Tillinghast is retiring from the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority after three decades of dedicated service.**



## Important Customer Information

The Pennsauken Sewerage Authority is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the sanitary sewage collection system in our service area. The sanitary sewage collection system is made up of main lines, force mains and pumping stations.

The homeowner owns and therefore is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the main line.

The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a back

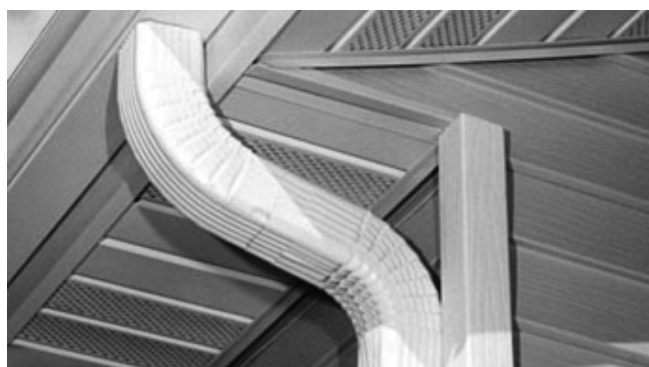
flow prevention device commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level, such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

The discharge of water collected in a sump pit to the sanitary sewage collection system is prohibited.

Cooking grease poured down the drain can cause a blockage of the lateral line. Please dispose of grease properly.

## IMPROPER CONNECTIONS CAUSE PROPERTY DAMAGE

The connection of sump pumps and down spouts to the sanitary sewer system is prohibited. During periods of heavy rain, these connections often overwhelm the main lines. This could result in a sewage back up into your own home or the home of your neighbor. If you need additional information about these types of connections, or suspect you or a neighbor, may have an improper connection and want information about having it removed, please call our office at (856) 663-5542.



### REMINDER:

### CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NEXT PAYMENT IS DUE THIS MONTH.

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If you are having a financial hardship and will be unable to pay your bill on time, or in full, please contact us at (856) 663-5542 to make payment arrangements. A simple 5-minute call could save you the inconvenience of being without water as well as the shut off fee which is currently \$75. Please do not send post dated checks to PSA without prior arrangements.





## GRAYMATTERS Paix, Amour Et Chocolat

By Judith Kristen,  
AAP Columnist

Well, it was one of those months where I started my February Valentine's column waaaaay ahead of time, but I did so many edits on it that... Hold on, let me explain something. You can only do so many edits on a 500-word column before it becomes a total rewrite. And so, while saving a few really good lines I'll surely use somewhere else down the road, I canned the entire original column. Yup. I sure did. Adios, au revoir, and good riddance.

So, just where does that leave me for

a February column that has my favorite thing of all time as its central focus? No, it's not love! It's CHOCOLATE! I can actually fit love and chocolate in here quite nicely.

My latest fix is thanks to a visit to my other homeland, Germany. I took a side trip to a wonderful little university town named Tübingen, just an hour's drive away from home base in my beloved Karlsruhe. Every December, for five days, this beautiful little town hosts Das Internationale Schokoladenfestival or ChocART Festival. I fell madly in love with, well, all of it, but most of all, drum-roll, please: French drinking chocolate!

And, may I add, that all samples are free throughout the entire festival. Yes, you and your normal blood sugar levels can risk it all, all day long, for five straight days, and never come up for air. For free!

Back to that French drinking chocolate. Hot chocolate, as we know it, is made with cocoa powder; but hot drinking chocolate is made with the real deal: delicious, smooth shavings of actual chocolate; rich, dark, European chocolate.

If you plan on the next best thing to anything created in Paris, called, le chocolat chaud, then visit Aunt Charlotte's for their very best dark chocolate!

Milk chocolate will only rob your taste-buds of the true magnificence that was intended for this drink. Trust me on that one. And you may use a combination of milk and cream, but NO WATER!

And, in exactly eight minutes, you will be in Parisian heaven.

I use this recipe for only two people, but the two are created for larger coffee mugs (of course they are). But you can get four normal size coffee cup drinks

out of this recipe.

1 1/2 cups whole milk

1/2 cup light or heavy cream

1 1/2 teaspoons powdered sugar

8 ounces of at least 70 percent chopped or shaved chocolate

Some freshly whipped cream for the final topping

The rest is so easy. In a saucepan (medium size is best) whisk together the heavy cream, milk, and powdered sugar until you see small bubbles forming around the edges of the pan. Do NOT let the mixture boil! Remove the pan from the heat, then stir in the small chocolate bits or shavings, until melted.

You may return the mixture in the pan back to the stove to melt any remaining pieces if needed.

Then, serve that velvety goodness in two generously sized mugs, along with a lavishly yummy dollop of whipped cream... and voila! You just saved \$3,500 dollars in plane fare. And you're welcome.

Peace and love and ooh la la - chocolate! À la prochaine... ~Judy

## Pennsauken Fire Responds To Vehicle Accident



Last month, Pennsauken Fire Department's Engine Company 1132, Tower Ladder 11, Battalion 11 and BLS operated on what was reported to be a two-vehicle accident on Rt. 70 Eastbound, only to find forklift batteries became dislodged from a flatbed trailer and entered a passenger vehicle via the windshield, trapping the operator of the car. Photo credit: Pennsauken Fire, Facebook.

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Meet Our Dedicated and Supportive Staff

**Angela McGraw**  
NJ License No. 5231

Angela was raised in Delran, where she attended high school and graduated in 2014. Throughout high school, Angela was a member of the Delran Golden Regiment Marching Band, where she played clarinet and mellophone. She also participated in her school's concert and jazz band playing the french horn and trumpet. After graduating, Angela attended school at the University of Delaware as a pre-med major where she was a member of the Pride of Delaware, Fightin' Blue Hen Marching Band playing mellophone.

After losing her mom during her freshman year of college to stage IV inflammatory breast cancer, Angela decided to switch back to her original career path and follow in her brother, Stan's, footsteps to become a funeral director. Angela started working as a funeral attendant in July of 2016 before starting her internship with us in January of 2017. She attended Mercer County Community College, where she graduated in December of 2017. After passing the State Board of Mortuary Science Exam of New Jersey, the National Board Exam for Funeral Service, serving the full two years of her internship and satisfying all the State Board of Mortuary Science of New Jersey's requirements, Angela received her funeral directors license in January of 2019.

For the past 13 years, Angela has volunteered heavily with the American Cancer Society. Just over the past few years, she was able to raise over \$17,500 for cancer research. This will be her third year serving as the Event Lead for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life of Cinnaminson event. She has also gotten the Falco, Caruso & Leonard Funeral Homes involved by creating a team for our staff. Angela has also attended the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer of Greater Philadelphia & Southern NJ.

Angela currently lives in Philadelphia with her boyfriend, Matt, and their cat, Felix.



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Stanley McGraw IV  
Funeral Director  
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Ashley Rose Caruso-Condon  
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# MPWC WATERLINES

## NEW HORIZONS IN 2021

By Michael A. Saraceni, COO, MPWC

With 2020 in our rearview mirrors, we look towards a better 2021, filled with hope and the promise of a safer and better year. Our personnel have remained focused on maintaining the highest quality of water along with the highest quality of services under extreme circumstances.

The issue of safe drinking water did not take a back seat to the pandemic. While Governor Murphy put some protections in place for our customers, recent changes have come out of Trenton via the Department of Environmental

Protection. Water utilities have been mandated to improve their water treatment capabilities to remove previously unregulated compounds from the water supplies being used for distribution. These changes have resulted into advanced treatment technologies being added at our Woodbine Ave. plant in the Borough of Merchantville, which is already under construction. Additionally, we are required to install the same advanced technology at our National Hwy. plant in Pennsauken. Currently, there is legislation being proposed to add ad-

vanced treatment for yet another unregulated compound, which will be required to be installed at all water treatment plants throughout the State of New Jersey. We will continue to meet all drinking water quality regulations during construction of these new plants.

The good news is this will improve the quality of the drinking water better than it already is; whether it comes from the underground aquifers or from surface water. We are constantly looking for outside funding sources to subsidize these capital expenses. We applied for "spill

fund" relief funds to offset expenses, as well as seeking low interest financing to minimize the burden on you, our customers.

So, what will we be doing this year? We are upgrading our Woodbine Ave. treatment plant and we have already started preparing for the advanced treatment at National Hwy. with a temporary pilot program to ensure our compliance with the new regulations. We will be continuing to maintain our compliance with the state's Water Quality Accountability Act by continuing our main replacement program, hydrant maintenance program, and all of the other elements of the act.

We have increased our water rates by 2 percent this year to assist us with maintaining the high level of service and quality of water. For the average owner-occupied, single-family dwelling, you can anticipate a slight increase in your quarterly water bill of approximately \$1.40 per quarter. Please know that we continue to be committed to providing the highest quality of water for the lowest possible cost. Our operation remains focused on keeping you, and our employees safe, while maximizing the services that we provide.

Be safe, enjoy the water, better days are coming.

## MPWC Offices Remain Closed To Public

Our lobby remains closed to the public until further notice. Please follow us on Facebook for the most current updates to our modified operations.

If you need to make a payment, you may do so by using our online or pay-by-phone options. To pay online please visit us at [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com) and choose the yellow "Access Online Bill Pay" button. If you would like to make a phone

payment, please call 844-611-4016. For both the online and phone options, you will need your Account ID and WIPP PIN found on your water bill. You can also leave payments in our drop box located on the side of the building near the front door. Please also feel free to mail your payments.

If you have a water emergency, or specific questions regarding your account, the MPWC's Customer

Support Staff and our 24-hour operators are available to assist you by phone.

During business hours:

856-663-0043

After hours and emergencies:

856-663-0044

We appreciate your continued cooperation and hope that you and your families remain safe and healthy. We look forward to serving you in person again soon.

## A Reminder To Our Senior And Disabled Customers

NEW for 2021: Because our lobby is currently closed to the public, we have mailed senior/disabled application forms to everyone currently receiving a discount. When you receive your form, complete it to the best of your ability and return it to us via U.S. Mail or by leaving it in our drop box on the side of the building. If you have questions or need assistance with completing your form, contact our Customer Support Center between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Remember: if you are currently receiving a discount, you must apply EACH year to continue receiving your discount.

If you are applying for the first time, please contact our office to request a form and to discuss the eligibility requirements.

You may also print a copy of the enrollment form by visiting our website at [www.mpwc.com](http://www.mpwc.com).

## Did You Know...



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Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission  
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## Phase 1B Vaccine Site To Open In Pennsauken *continued from page 1*

This initiative is specifically for those eligible to receive the vaccine during Phase 1B: those aged 65 and older, and individuals ages 16-64 with medical conditions, as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, that increase the risk of severe illness from the virus. These conditions include:

- Cancer
- Chronic kidney disease
- COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Down Syndrome
- Heart conditions such as heart failure, coronary artery disease, or cardiomyopathies
- Obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> or higher but < 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Severe Obesity (BMI ≥ 40 kg/m<sup>2</sup>)
- Sickle cell disease
- Smoking
- Type 2 diabetes mellitus

Individuals who are pregnant and those in an immunocompromised state (weakened immune system) from solid organ transplant are also eligible but should follow CDC guidance and first discuss vaccination with their medical provider before receiving the vaccine.

Vaccine registration will occur at the Municipal Complex, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. To sign up for a vaccination, those individuals eligible under Phase 1B can pick up a form on the side of the Township Municipal Building. They are found in one of the wall file holders under the awning. The form can also be downloaded from the Township's website, [twp.pennsauken.nj.us](http://twp.pennsauken.nj.us). After the two-page form is completed, it can be mailed back to the Municipal Building, or placed in the drop box immediately next to where the forms are located. Submitting these consent forms as soon

as possible is extremely important, as this determines the number of doses received from the state.

After these forms are processed, individuals who registered will be contacted about how to schedule your vaccination. Walk-ins will not be allowed at this time. The timeline will be based on current supplies and vaccine availability.

In addition, the Camden County Board of Commissioners, in a joint public health effort with Cooper University Health Care and Jefferson Health – New Jersey, have begun vaccinating individuals at Camden County College – Blackwood Campus. Residents can find out if they're currently eligible to receive the vaccine, schedule an appointment, and access the full list of open vaccination sites throughout New Jersey by visiting [camdencounty.com/vaccineregistration](http://camdencounty.com/vaccineregistration).

Questions about COVID-19 vaccinations can be submitted online at the Township's website. Answers will be provided via a FAQ that will be shared with the Pennsauken community.

### COVID-19 Numbers In Pennsauken

As of the print date of this issue, Pennsauken Township had 3,448 total confirmed cases of the coronavirus since the start of the outbreak in March 2020. There have also been 56 deaths due to COVID-19-related complications.

"We need everyone's help in battling this virus," said Mayor DiBattista. "By properly wearing masks, thoroughly washing your hands, and being socially distant, we can keep ourselves, our loved ones, and our community safe."

"We've taken a lot of steps to make sure that both Township employees and the residents who conduct business in

our municipal building stay safe. We're continuing to only have people come into the building by appointment only. Residents can find a list of our departments – to ask questions or to schedule a time to come in – both in each issue of All Around Pennsauken and at the Township website. When you do stop

by, you'll need to wear a mask to enter. It's important to bring your ID with you. There's also plenty of hand sanitizer throughout the building. We know these extra steps can be inconvenient, but we're really trying to keep everybody safe."

Pennsauken Township puts out regu-

lar updates on the coronavirus outbreak via its website, [twp.pennsauken.nj.us](http://twp.pennsauken.nj.us); Pennsauken Television, Channel 19 on Comcast and Channel 21 on Fios; and its social media channels: Facebook.com/PennsaukenTwp and @pennsaukentwp for both Twitter and Instagram.



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By Frank  
Sinatra,  
AAP Editor

Well, it happened. Somebody in Michigan won the \$1 billion Mega Millions jackpot. It's incomprehensible that anyone who played the lottery, even a modestly overweight editor from Pennsauken, had a shot of winning that much green. That is until you look at the shot.

The odds of winning the Mega Millions jackpot stands at 1 in 302.5 million. For the Powerball, your odds are 1 in 292.2 million. To put that in perspective, I spent countless minutes searching the internet to see what your chances are when it comes to other scenarios.

There's the standard odds of being killed by a shark attack. Cue the "Jaws" music. Those are 1 in 3,748,067, according to the National Safety Council.

The CDC says your odds of being struck by lightning are 1 in 500,000. Shocking.

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## Looking At Our Lottery Chances: Some Odds Are Just... Odd

Finding a pearl in an oyster? Those odds are 1 in 12,000. Slightly better are your odds of finding a four-leaf clover, which are 1 in 10,000. Coincidentally, those are also your chances of being injured by a toilet, which is kind of crappy.

When a satellite in space finishes its orbital decay and falls back to Earth, NASA says that the odds of having your house struck by one of the few fragments that actually survive entry into the atmosphere is 1 in 3,200. Wonder if that's covered by my homeowners' insurance?

Something that nobody wants, your odds of being audited by the IRS is 1 in 160. That's pretty taxing if that happens.

If you're looking to hear, "Come on

down!" your chances of being selected on "The Price is Right" is 1 in 36. I always wanted to spin the price wheel.

And finally, the odds that Howie Roseman will have a successful draft for the Philadelphia Eagles this year is 1 in 165 billion. I'm no scientist, but I still think the math is accurate.

Keeping this in mind, will I still run out and buy lottery tickets? Absolutely. It's always a little fun to wonder what would happen if you hit it big. How does it go? "Lord, the money won't change me and I'd really like the opportunity to prove it."

Whether you buy a ticket or not, best of luck to you and yours. It never hurts to have some extra.

## Township Building, Library Closed On Presidents Day

The Township's Municipal Building and the Pennsauken Free Public Library, both at 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. are closed for Presidents Day, Monday, Feb. 15. The Municipal Building will reopen by ap-

pointment only on Tuesday, Feb. 16; the Library will reopen that day at 11:00 a.m.

There are no changes to Pennsauken's trash or recycling collection on Presidents Day.

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## Township Committee Holds 2021 Reorganization Meeting continued from page 1

Township employees, who helped us find a way to serve our residents and keep things moving during a crazy year," said Killion. "To our residents: thank you for your trust and encouragement over the past year; your kind words really kept me going."

Killion also offered his thanks to Bill Orth, for his past work as the dedicated public safety director and his service to the Township for the past 30 years; Joe Palumbo, for serving as both acting administrator and the town's fire chief, helping Committee navigate the pandemic and usher in many needed changes and upgrades to the Township's infrastructure and daily operations; and Bill Hertline, Pennsauken's Office of Emergency Management coordinator, for his commitment in keeping the community aware and safe during the coronavirus. In a special way, Killion

thanked his family for helping keep him grounded and humble, and his wife, Bridget, for her love and support during a difficult year.

"I appreciate everything you've done for our family. You put a lot on your shoulders while you were pregnant and after you had Ashlyn. You supported me and I appreciate it."

### Martinez Becomes Newest Committee Member

During the event, Vince Martinez took the oath of office for his first-ever term on Township Committee. Surrounded by family, the lifelong Pennsauken resident and the first Latino male to join the local governing body, recognized those who supported him during the entire process.

"I wanted to thank my family, my friends and everyone who had an impact

on my position today," said Martinez. "I will try my best to add to this great town."

Martinez is one of two newly minted members of Committee. He joins Nikki Roberts, who was appointed in December to fill the open seat vacated by Al Dyer, who resigned after being elected to the Camden County Commissioners.

"I'm proud to be a part of this team and I'm so looking forward to working diligently for the residents of Pennsauken," stated Roberts.

### Mayor And Deputy Mayor Sworn In For 2021

The members of Pennsauken's Township Committee nominated Marco DiBattista to serve as the town's mayor for 2021; and Jessica Rafeh to serve as deputy mayor. Rafeh, who participated in the event virtually, expressed her gratitude for being chosen to serve in this

role for the year.

"I'm humbled and honored to be sworn in as deputy mayor. I thank the Committee for their nomination and their trust, as well as the entire Pennsauken Township, for giving me the opportunity to serve you," said Rafeh. "I promise to continue to work hard for this town, a town that has given my family and I so much."

"I'm looking forward to continuing to work with Marco, a.k.a. 'Mayor DiBattista,' who is not only my colleague, but my brother and my friend. We make a great team, and I couldn't be more proud."

In his remarks to both in-person and virtual attendees, Mayor DiBattista expressed his honor and excitement to serve his hometown.

"As I look forward to 2021, to say that I'm excited would be an understatement. I think about how lucky we are that we live in a town that has two bridges, two waterways, 30 parks and playgrounds, Tippin's Pond, eight industrial parks, 144 miles of road, basketball courts, pickleball courts, and a skate park; all these things that make our town so unique. This is what makes this town so amazing," explained Mayor DiBattista.

*continued on page 27*

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## DEATHNOTICES Bisignaro Gave Back To Fellow Veterans In Need

Jim Bisignaro, age 73, a long-time resident of Pennsauken, passed away this past November after a short battle with cancer. "Biz," as he was always known to friends and all who knew him, defined service to country and friendship to all.

He is survived by the love of his life, his wife, Kathy Bisignaro (nee Schallus). They were married for 48 years; and though they had no children, they were committed to family, brothers and sisters, many nieces and nephews, and friends.

Jim was drafted into the U.S. Army out of high school, Roman Catholic Class of 1965. He was a proud Vietnam combat



Bisignaro

veteran who served with the 198th Infantry, Brigade RVN 1967 and 1968.

Biz was an avid golfer and member of Pennsauken Country Club for 25 years. His ever-lasting legacy is "The Biz Game," a friendly golf game that he organized four times per week for anyone who wanted to participate. The rules of the game fell within the USGA rules of the game of golf, but always had the "Biz" twist to them. Some loved playing the game for the possibility of winning a few dollars, most of which was donated back to fellow players in the form of "buckets;" however, most really just loved playing in his game for the sense of belonging and comradery that the "Biz Game" provided.

The most significant twist and the one that Biz Game players were always

proud of was the donation to veterans that was made after each game. Biz would collect \$2 per player after each game and save it until the end of the year. He would then, with the help of Bobby Alexander, donate the money to organizations that helped veterans. Over the years, the donations to veteran's organizations totaled over \$30,000. The or-

ganizations included: The Fisher House Foundation, Folds of Honor, and The Philadelphia Vietnam Veteran's Memorial, where the donation helped to refurbish and enhance the memorial. Pennsauken Country Club Skat Players through the Biz Game are forever etched in the granite wall that surrounds the memorial.

Jim Bisignaro's loyal devotion to all veterans and veteran causes is his defining legacy. He will forever be missed at Pennsauken Country Club, his home away from home; but his name and his game will live on. He was a true friend, golf partner, and patriot.

## Dr. Doris Carpenter, Educator And Woman Of Faith

Doris C. Carpenter, PhD, DAPA, nee Cowerd, a 30-year Pennsauken resident, was born on January 28, 1954 and was called home by her heavenly Father on January 2, 2021.



Carpenter

Born in Bayonne, Carpenter was the fifth of seven children born to the late Rev. Dr. William B. Cowherd, Sr. and Willie Arburta DeShong, formerly Cowherd, nee Johnson. Doris gave her life to Jesus Christ, accepting Him as her Lord and Savior in 1976.

From a very early age, Doris loved to sing. She served God with her gift of music as director of the Youth Choir, Woodtones Inspirational Choir, Male Ensemble, and Restoration Choir at the Parkside United Methodist Church in Camden, where she had been a member

and servant-leader for 50 years. She served as Sunday School teacher, as well as a Bible teacher for the Methodist Youth Fellowship. In 2019, Carpenter joined Little Rock Baptist Church in Camden, where she became a dedicated member who worked with church leadership to strengthen its ministry presence within the Camden community.

Doris spent her career in education as a music teacher, assistant principal, supervisor of curriculum of the arts and world languages, and principal. In 2003, she founded Lion of Judah Restoration Ministries, Inc. which birthed an inspirational gospel group, Rhessa Praise Ensemble. In 2004, Dr. Carpenter's capstone professional experience was founding and serving as the chief education officer of the Distinctions in Urban Education (D.U.E.) Season Charter School in Camden, also under the umbrella of Lion of Judah Restoration Min-

istries, serving 500 K-8 students each year until its closing in 2014.

Upon formal retirement from education in 2014, Dr. Carpenter worked as a consultant in a variety of domains in K-12 education and ministry.

Doris leaves to mourn her loss her husband, William; her children, Olivia Glenn (Kobie), Lawrence, and Alexandra; mother and stepfather, Arburta and Barry DeShong; her older siblings, William Cowherd, Jr. (Libby), Merdis Hill; and her baby sister, Arburta Jones. Doris' grandchildren, Noah, Josiah, Zenobia, Thaddaeus, Zipporah, Barrington and Caleb will always remember the warm embrace of her love and care. She is also survived by her special "adopted" daughters, Shunda Watson and Laura Hinton, "adopted" grandchildren Tiphinnie, Craig, and Ayricca, her godchildren Darnell Jones and Kaylah Worlds, and a host of nieces, nephews, and friends.

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### QMA Hiring Policy Regarding COVID-19

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QMA's Resident Counselors are responsible for performing tasks that are essential to helping adults with Intellectual/developmental disabilities lead safe and satisfying lives. They assist the people we serve with daily living activities including personal goals, recreation and daily household living. They facilitate proper medical care and meet the physical, emotional and personal needs of the people we serve. Looking for RC's for Camden, Burlington and Cumberland County.

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## FOODADVENTURES The Great Chicken Battle: A Look At Fast Food Sandwiches



By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

The chicken wars have been waging for months. People have been debating since Popeyes released its chicken sandwich just which sandwich deserves the title of the greatest. I decided to investigate this battle a bit further. I've tried Chick-fil-A, Popeyes, Wendy's, McDonald's, and Burger King. I've taken my own opinion, along with the feedback of people that I pulled in to be taste testers, into account for this trial and rated the sandwiches on freshness, crispiness, bun quality, and overall appeal. The following are the results.

To, what I'm sure will be, the disappointment and shock of many, the

Popeyes chicken sandwich came in last. All across the board, it fell short of what I expected. The same proved true for the other people I had try it.

Coming in fourth was McDonald's. The bun looked good but wasn't fluffy and soft with some sturdiness to it like I'd hoped. The chicken was fairly crispy and had a decent flavor, but for the price I paid, it wasn't a deal.

In third place was Burger King, mostly because the sandwich alone is almost \$7. It was fresh, crispy, the taste was great, and the bun was pretty much perfect; but the price point had me scratching my head.

Second place goes to Wendy's. A basic crispy chicken sandwich can be as low as .99 cents. This is a stellar price for your standard chicken sandwich. The flavor is really good as well. You can amplify your order with a spicy version of the sandwich, along with added veggies, which will, of course, raise the price above a buck.

First place goes to Chick-fil-A. Chick-fil-A chicken tastes amazing and the fries

aren't terrible either. Service is spectacular and everything down to the bun is great. The plain crispy chicken sandwich with nothing but pickles and mayo goes for about \$3.75; but the quality of the item makes it well worth that price to me. If

you add anything extra, the price goes up.

I'm not a huge fast food person, so this trial was performed over a few months. I do not recommend anyone go out and eat five fast food chicken sandwiches all at once. What I DO suggest is that you

give some of these a try over time and let me know which one is your favorite on the "All Around Pennsauken Food Adventures" group on Facebook. As always, stay safe, wear a mask, and enjoy your Food Adventures.



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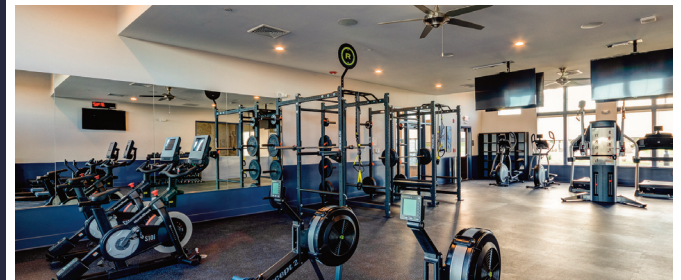
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## FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Friends' Virtual Wellness Programs Extended

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

It looks as if we're in for a few more months of our ongoing "stay at home, stay safe" routines. Take heart, though: the Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library are extending our wellness series of events to help everyone cope, relax, and get the right amount of exercise to get us all through till the weather warms up and we can get outside more often.

Beginning Friday, Feb. 5 and on each successive Friday during the month, we'll be offering chair yoga virtual online classes from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. with in-

structor Michele Carlino. And for anyone who's taken a chair yoga class, you'll know it's a great gentle workout that leaves you glad you invested the time.

In March, we'll start a month of Tai Chi Chih, a mindfulness moving meditation. The set of 19 movements and one pose is soft, flowing, and easy to learn. Benefits may include peace of mind, improved health and simply, joy; and who can't use a little joy these days? Our Tai Chi Chih classes take place Fridays from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. on March 5, 12, 19 and 26; as well as April 9 and 16.

You can register for all these classes by visiting <https://bit.ly/3cs4hqO>, com-

pleting the form, and submitting it. You'll receive a confirmation email along with a direct link to the classes. Please note that the confirmation will say "chair yoga" for all sessions. To keep things simple, we've used the same link for all our virtual wellness classes, including chair yoga and Tai Chi Chih classes.



## Pennsauken Lions Shaping The Lives Of Those In Need

The Pennsauken Lions Club would like to thank the many individuals and organizations that continue to support the Lions. Your efforts help to shape lives of so many individuals and families in our community.

While COVID-19 continues to affect our community in ways not imaginable just a year ago, the Pennsauken Lions Club still supports our community by helping those most in need in our area, in spite of its restrictions. Though these restrictions have impacted the way the Lions has been able to conduct business to our community.

The Pennsauken Lions Club continues to be resilient in this effort and works closely with Lions District 16L of South-

We'll be offering additional meditation and relaxation sessions later in April, but more about those later. For now, just get ready to relax and stretch while you're stuck inside.

Finally, we'll be holding our annual poetry contest again this year. Look for all the information you'll need to enter

coming up in March. In the meantime, though, while you're getting your body and mind in shape through our wellness classes, don't forget to start your creative juices flowing... to come up with an award-winning poem for our contest.

Please stay safe and think positive. There's light at the end of the tunnel!

ern New Jersey and the Food Bank of South Jersey to help food insecure families in our community and throughout our region. Thanks to this effort, since November 2020, we have been able, through online and direct donations to the Food Bank, to provide 2,793 meals to 931 people in the community.

The Lions Club continues to support many of its traditional programs, like screening children for eye issues in the Pennsauken, Merchantville and parochial schools on a limited basis; as well as collecting used eyeglasses, which are then recycled, to help individuals with vision problems.

When you become a Lion, you become part of a network of organizations,

businesses and community volunteers committed to making a difference for the betterment of our community.

Because of the ongoing pandemic and the restrictions it has created on in-person meetings and gatherings, the Lions, until further notice, will continue to meet virtually at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom on the first and third Mondays of each month.

If you would like more information about our meetings, would like to become a member or donate to the Lions, vision, join us for one of our virtual meetings. Please follow us at Facebook.com/PennsaukenLions or email us to obtain a meeting link at PennsaukenLionsClub1@gmail.com.



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## **AARP** AARP Tax-Aide Services Available This Month

Last month, the IRS announced that they will start accepting electronically filed tax returns beginning Feb. 12. Due to this change, AARP Tax-Aide services will not be available to residents in the Pennsauken/Merchantville area until the week of Feb. 15.

Because of the pandemic, there will be NO on-site tax preparation. Instead, taxpayers will have the choice of three models:

### **Low Contact**

Taxpayers interact with an IRS-certified tax aide in a short, in-person, and socially distant meeting, during which time

all tax documents will be scanned and returned to the taxpayer. These meetings, by appointment only, will be held in the Pennsauken Library's Community Room on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., so long as the Library is open for limited services.

Available appointments can only be found by accessing AARP's Tax-Aide's Site Location Finder and then completing the reservation form for the Pennsauken Library. The Location Finder goes live starting Feb. 9 at [www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide). Individuals can also access the appointment form directly at <https://sforce.co/2uUt19D>. The confirma-

tion email taxpayers receive will include links to additional information. A follow-up email will have forms that need to be completed prior to the scanning session. If you do not have a printer, packets containing all the required documents to be completed are available for pick-up in the Library's lobby.

At the completion of the tax preparation, taxpayers must have a private email address where they can receive their completed tax returns. If you do not have a printer, then a short, in-person appointment will be set up. The taxpayer will return to the Community Room on a Wednesday or Thursday afternoon

where a TaxAide will print out the return and request a signature for authorization to file the return electronically.

### **Contactless**

Taxpayers interact remotely with an IRS-certified tax aide via phone or computer to exchange information and documents with the tax aide completing the tax return(s). The request for virtual tax prep services can only be made thru the AARP Tax-Aide Foundation's website, [www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide).

### **Self Preparation**

The AARP Tax-Aide Foundation provides taxpayers with free access to

software, so they can prepare their own taxes. Starting Feb. 9, taxpayers can also request virtual tax preparation assistance through the AARP Tax-Aide Foundation's website [www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://www.aarpfoundation.org/taxaide). Participants must provide a private email address.

Please do not contact the Pennsauken Library about any of the AARP Tax-Aide service offerings. They are wonderful, supportive hosts, but they are not AARP Tax-Aide volunteers. The aforementioned links have been shared with the Pennsauken Free Public Library, but as of this writing, the Library's computer lab are not available for public use.

## Township Committee Holds 2021 Reorganization Meeting

*continued from page 23*

"What makes Pennsauken more amazing are the 37,000 residents that live here. The 37,000 residents that I'm going to work hard for every day and put their best interests always first."

The new mayor took an opportunity to thank the special people in his life who offered support and guidance, including Bill Orth, who administered the oath of office.

"Bill, it means the world to me that you could swear me in today and you're one of the biggest reasons, if not the biggest reason, that I ever got into politics," said Mayor DiBattista. "I thank you

so much and I learn from you every day."

Marco also thanked his family, including his in-laws; his mother, the "greatest mom in the world;" his siblings, Claudia and Anthony; daughters, Sophia and Juliana; and wife, Nitsa.

"I couldn't be more blessed. I receive a lot of love and support from my family, who came to Pennsauken and put down roots and still live here. We're now raising our family in the house I grew up in."

Mayor DiBattista stated that the initiatives planned for this year come off the backs of the hard work that took place over the past several years; and

that he, along with the entire Township Committee, would tirelessly pursue initiatives designed to grow Pennsauken and benefit its residents.

"My priority is to lead and work with our team to make this town the best it can be. I'm so excited to be Pennsauken's mayor and I'll be working hard every day for you."

The entire reorganization meeting is available for viewing both on Pennsauken Television, Channel 19 on Xfinity and Channel 21 on Fios, as well as YouTube via the "Pennsauken Television" channel.

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Tuesday - Friday: 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Sunday: CLOSED

The Library is closed on Monday Feb. 15 for Presidents Day.

## February Virtual Library Events

[www.facebook.com/pennsaukenlibrary](https://www.facebook.com/pennsaukenlibrary) [www.instagram.com/pennsaukenlibrary](https://www.instagram.com/pennsaukenlibrary)

### Programs For Children And Families

- **Preschool Storytime** – Tuesdays, Feb. 2, 9, 16 & 23; 11:00 a.m. Join Miss Susan and Miss Sabrina for virtual, interactive story time fun, live via Zoom! Aimed at increasing your child's vocabulary and attention span and teaching fine motor skills, story time combines reading with music, dancing, multilingual skills, finger-plays and rhymes. Online registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplstorytime>. Families only need to register ONCE to attend story time every week. For children ages 3+ and their caregivers.
- **What's New in Youth Services** – Friday, Feb. 5; 10:00 a.m. On the first Friday of every month, Ms. Susan and Ms. Sabrina provide a quick virtual tour of the Youth Services Department, live on Facebook. This short program will include a discussion of new books and materials, upcoming programs, and any questions our live viewers may have.
- **Voo'Do It Yourself: A Valentine's Day Look** – Friday, Feb. 12; 6:00 p.m. Don't have a fancy professional makeup kit? NO PROBLEM! Come learn a fun Voodoo Valentine's Day-inspired look with special effects makeup artist Amanda DeSouza. Amanda will teach you how to transform yourself using normal everyday

makeup into a Voodoo Valentine's Day Doll. Turn into something magical this Valentine's Day, and maybe make the love of your life fall for ya! This video tutorial will be available on the Pennsauken Free Public Library's Facebook and Instagram pages. For ages 12 and up.

- **hipPOP Fitness**: Thursday, Feb. 18; 7:00 p.m. Certified instructor Amanda DeSouza presents this virtual exercise class! hipPOP fitness® is a triple threat: dance, strength and yoga all in one class! Learn to dance like a POP star in minutes! This high energy, calorie-crushing workout will send your endorphin levels through the roof, leaving you feeling fierce, confident and strong! Find your inner POP star! Registration is required at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplfitness>. For teens and young adults.
- **Storytelling with Marilyn Larke**: Saturday, Feb. 27; 11:00 a.m. Join us for a lively event on intergenerational and multicultural storytelling, with local educator and historian Marilyn Larke. For more details and to register, visit <http://www.pennsaukenlibrary.org/events>.

use this link to register online:

<https://tinyurl.com/pfplguitar>, or call 856.665.5959 ext. 3. For all ages.

- **Trivia Night: Black History & Culture** – Thursday, Feb. 25; 6:30 p.m. Join us for a fun evening testing your knowledge and celebrating the contributions of notable Black Americans! For more details and to register, visit <http://www.pennsaukenlibrary.org/events>. For ages 15 and up.
- **Ask-A-Librarian Live Online** – Tuesday's at 7:00 p.m.; Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.; Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. Have a question? Connect one-on-one with a librarian online. To participate, you must register ahead of time for a session with a librarian.
  - Register for Tuesdays: <https://tinyurl.com/AALLOTues>
  - Register for Thursday: <https://tinyurl.com/AALLOThurs>
  - Register for Saturdays: <https://tinyurl.com/AALLOSat>

Can't chat online? No problem. Call the Library anytime at (856) 665-5959 and leave a message. A member of the Library staff will return your phone call. Please dial ext. 4 for Reference or ext. 5 for Youth Services.

### Adult Services

- **Community Conversation: The Borders of Our Minds** – Thursday, Feb. 4; 6:30 p.m. David Mould shares his latest book on travel, history and culture, "Postcards from the Borderlands," where he explores the meaning of borders, both real and imagined. Please use this link to register online at <https://tinyurl.com/pfplborders>, or call 856.665.5959 ext. 3. For all ages.
- **Classical Guitar Recital** – Wednesday, Feb. 10; 6:30 p.m. Join us for an evening of classical and Argentine folk guitar with professional musician and composer Carlos Pavan. Please

- **Free Wi-Fi Access** – No internet access at home? Pennsauken Free Public Library has you covered! The Library's free-to-all Wi-Fi extends beyond the building and out into the shared Library/Township Building parking lot. You are not required to have a library card in order to use the Wi-Fi, but you do need your own device. All information needed to connect to the "PennLib" Wi-Fi network, including the password, which is posted on the Library's front doors. Please remember to practice social distancing and remain six feet apart from other patrons who may also be using the Library's Wi-Fi.

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# inSports Registration For Merchantville-Pennsauken Little League Now Open

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

After a prolonged absence of a Pennsauken-based youth baseball/softball program, a new organization has

stepped up to not only fill the vacuum, but also provide opportunities for more area children to enjoy the "National Pastime."

The Merchantville-Pennsauken Little League is currently registering tee ball,

baseball, and softball for the 2021 season. Now through March 6, boys ages 4 through 16 can sign up for baseball; and girls ages 4 through 18 can register for softball.



"From here on out, everyone who wants to register for baseball and softball in both towns can do so with us."

The March 6 deadline is a hard date, as the spring season begins on April 10. Those wishing to sign their child up for the Merchantville-Pennsauken Little League can do so online at MPLittleLeague.org. The League is always looking for volunteers. Interested parties can e-mail Bob Wetherspoon at merchantvillelittleleague@yahoo.com.

"We're starting fresh and combining what was the Township's little league and creating an opportunity for kids in Pennsauken and Merchantville to play together, have fun, and learn important life lessons through sports," said Bob Wetherspoon, president of the Merchantville-Pennsauken Little League.

## PHS Adds NBA Talent To Coaching Staff

Kevin "Moon" Mullin joined Pennsauken High School's boys basketball coaching staff this season.

Coach "Moon" played basketball and graduated from Princeton University, where he played for Hall of Fame coach Pete Carril. After scoring 38 points in an NCAA Tournament game, "Moon" was drafted by the Boston Celtics. He played alongside Larry Bird, Kevin McHale, Danny Ainge, and his roommate, Rick Carlisle.

Mullin's success extends beyond basketball, as he also earned a Master's Degree from Villanova University. Excelling in the corporate arena, he has also authored several books for student-athletes.

"Coach Moon is an incredible asset and addition to our coaching family at Pennsauken High School," said Billy Snyder, athletic director for Pennsauken Public Schools. "I am not only excited for our basketball program, but for all of our



Kevin "Moon" Mullin

student-athletes and coaches. Any time I can bring that level of talent to any of our programs, I am going to do my best to secure them."

## PYAA SPORTS

### Update On PYAA Soccer

PYAA will have intramural soccer ONLY beginning fall 2021. We are looking for volunteer coaches and parents.

For more information, call (856) 662-1880.



## Online Registration Open For Spring Intramural Soccer

The Pennsauken Youth Soccer Club is now holding online registration for spring intramural soccer.

The intramural program is co-ed and open to children living in Pennsauken and Merchantville. Players are divided into teams by age group. Practices are typically an hour long, one night a week between Monday and Thursday. All in-

tramural games are played on Friday nights under the lights at the Pennsauken Soccer Complex at Westfield and Bethel avenues.

Have your child introduced to the great game of soccer in a fun, welcoming environment! Online registration runs through Feb. 15. For more information or to sign up your child, visit PennsaukenSoccer.com.



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